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ITEM NO: WH-2

DATE: 11 OCTOBER 1974

SUBJECT: PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER SEEKS INVITATION TO VISIT
WASHINGTON

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PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO HAS INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS VISITING WASHINGTON SOON. BHUTTO TOLD US AMBASSADOR BYROADE THAT HE HAD KNOWN FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON QUITE WELL AND FELT UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT NOT BEING PERSONNALLY ACQUAINTED WITH PRESIDENT FORD.

IN ELABORATING ON BHUTTO'S REQUEST, FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHI TOLD BYROADE THAT BHUTTO WOULD LIKE TO COME TO WASHINGTON SOMETIME IN NOVEMBER AFTER HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW AROUND OCTOBER 20 AND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S END-OF-THE MONTH VISIT TO PAKISTAN. SHAHI SAID BHUTTO WANTS TO VISIT WASHINGTON BECAUSE HE FEELS HE IS IN AN INCREASINGLY EXPOSED POSITION CONCERNING PAKISTAN'S PRO-US

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ORIENTATION. SHAHI ALSO ASSERTED THAT BHUTTO WILL COME UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE DURING HIS MOSCOW VISIT TO GO ALONG WITH THE USSR'S LONGSTANDING DESIRE FOR A SOVIET-SPONSORED ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM. BHUTTO, SAID SHAHI, WOULD ADOPT A "STALLING POSITION," BUT HE SAID PAKISTAN MIGHT EVENTUALLY HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO GO ALONG WITH THE SOVIET PLAN.

WHILE WE AGREE THAT THE PAKISTANIS GENUINELY FEEL THE CONCERNS VOICED BY SHAHI. WE ALSO BELIEVE BHUTTO WOULD THINK VERY CAREFULLY BEFORE JEOPARDIZING HIS TIES WITH THE US AND CHINA IN FAVOR OF AN ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW, WHICH HAS LONG REGARDED INDIA, NOT PAKISTAN, AS THE KEY TO A STRONG SOVIET POSITION ON THE SUBCONTINENT.

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